

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GUCO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park was the site of one of largest, longest and bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War and was the first Revolutionary War battlefield to be protected as a National Military Park. It is an urban park with city development surrounding it on the North and east. To the south and west there are several park areas adjoining it. This Vision Statement is developed based on recommendations of the Parks General Management Plan and its Historic Landscape Report.

By 2016 Guilford Courthouse National Military Park will provide an enhanced battlefield experience through developments aligned and in concert with the Park's 2004 Historic Landscape Report and the 1997 General Management Plan selected "Cluster Concept" alternative. The Park will actively cooperate and partner with adjacent Park areas. It will provide expanded recreational and learning experience through inter-park transportation links and partner relationships such as a joint Visitor Center, it will provide a far safer environment for Park Visitors, and it will accurately depict the battle landscape present during the 1781 battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Charles E. Cranfield

Site: GUCO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Park will enhance transportation in the Park and protect pedestrians by reducing private car traffic through initiation of a shuttle service that will serve a contiguous multi-park community over a 500 acre area. This will serve to increase and control access to the whole park area and reduce private traffic that presents an increasing and continuous hazard to pedestrians in the park.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: GUCO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

The Park will cooperate with partner parks through sharing physical and human resources in order to better protect park assets.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

As invasive species do not recognize individual park borders Guilford Courthouse National Military Park will continue to work with our park neighbors to manage invasive plants and animal species that are common to both parks. The sharing of physical and human resources will allow us to better protect park assets.

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☒ Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Share physical and human resources of partner parks to help protect park assets

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Site: GUCO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Set the standard of excellence in urban park landscape design and maintenance.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park will comprehensively follow the Parks 2004 Historic Landscape Report to restore the park battlefield to its 1781 appearance. Proposed project for 2009 will be to locate the historic Guilford Courthouse and determine the true location of General Greene's third line. That determination will allow the Park unmistakably mark the location of the third line and prepare the area as necessary for accurate interpretation of the site.

Additional projects to come in future years will be to prepare a site development plan for the third line area if it is different from the traditionally depicted third line area (Schenck Field).

Remove the Lake Caldwell dam and tour road that runs on it . The dam and tour road run parallel to the trace road which has been overgrown with forest and is presently unrecognizable. The trace road will then be restored.

Remove the current visitor center from the core battlefield and restore the area where it stood to its 1781 appearance.

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Site: GUCO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Park will continue to acquire land leading to the first line of battle. These are endangered core battlefield lands that will preserve the battlefield and connect Tannenbaum Historic Park to Guilford Courthouse NMP. The lands are prioritized in the Land Acquisition Plan and acquisition is legislatively authorized.

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Site: GUCO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

☒ Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

Park energy and environmental practices will be visible and integrated into interpretive programs and visitor center orientations.

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☒ Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Two major projects are designed to increase energy efficiency and alternative fuels. An internal shuttle service will reduce gasoline vehicles in the park. The shuttles will have high efficiency, clean diesel engines and utilize at a minimum B-20 (biodiesel). The second project will be a joint visitor center that will meet LEED standards as described below.

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☒ Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

A joint Tannenbam Historic Park / Guilford Courthouse National Military Park Visitor Center will be built to LEED standards. It will be a visible and Park interpreted example of energy efficient design and environmentally safe construction. A strong attribute of Colonial America was self sufficiency and the design of the joint Visitor Center will reflect a modern version of self-sufficiency.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: GUCO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Park proposes for the Centennial Initiative a Joint Visitor Center and a Shuttle project that will engage partners and the community in showcasing environmental design standards that will be models for a city of 250,000 people. The shuttles will run on high efficiency clean diesel engines and the Visitor Center will meet LEED standards for efficiency.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: GUCO

RECREATION

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level-federal, regional, state, local-to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Enhance visitor experience through multi-park cooperation and marketing. Create a seamless park complex that encourages shared operational resources and increases visitor recreational experiences. To do this internal connecting roads will be completed and shuttle service provided so that all visitors experience all the educational and recreational facilities available in the multi-park complex.

A The National Park Service and Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department will share a visitor center at the current location of the Tannenbaum Cultural Heritage Center. Guilford Courthouse will interpret the 1781 battle and the Revolutionary War and Tannenbaum will interpret colonial life ways.

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Site: GUCO

EDUCATION

☒ Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

☒ Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Create a joint Visitor Center with the Tannenbaum Colonial Heritage Center. Currently the GUCO visitor center is located on the core battlefield. It should be removed and would be most efficient to pair it with the Colonial Heritage Center adjacent to GUCO. In that center both Rev. war and colonial lifeways will be interpreted.

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Site: GUCO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Model what it means to work in partnership.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Park Centennial Projects will involve partnerships with City and County Government, the Park's Friends Group, Partners such as the Greensboro Natural Science Center, Piedmont Land Conservancy, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, and corporate and individual sponsors.

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Site: GUCO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

☒ Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

Total expect cost for all Centennial Projects at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park will be around 20 million dollars (2007 dollars). To leverage donations of at least 10 million dollars the park and its friends and partners will develop a multi-year marketing plan that will work to increase public knowledge of the benefits and contributions of National Parks to the public good.

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